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USAID/OFDA Quarterly Program Performance Report	
Program Title: Restore food security and health of conflict - affected and displaced populations in the Central African Republic	
Project Dates: September 20, 2015 – September 19, 2016	
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SUMMARY

This report captures progress against planned activities, Indicators and Objectives from April 1 to June 30 2016. The main activities completed within the reporting period were:

- **Objective 1:** Following a successful harvest, a new round of vegetable seed distributions and training has been completed, and poultry distribution is underway.
- **Objective 2:** WASH infrastructure work is ongoing, and hygiene promotion is progressing well

Security around project sites has been stable, enabling activities to go ahead as planned. Delays with WASH infrastructure activities have meant that contracts have had to be amended, but work is underway again. The team is consolidating its positive relationships with beneficiary communities, and we are encouraged by the active engagement of local volunteers.

SECTOR 1: Agriculture and Food Security

Objective 1: Targeted Beneficiary households have restored crop production, livestock and food consumption

All project sites were accessible during this quarter, and there were no significant security issues, allowing work to progress. We reported last quarter that beneficiaries found it difficult to share tools (partly because everyone needed to use them at the same time, and partly because families have so few resources, and are nervous about losing the little they have), and that we would seek support from the FAO. The FAO has been unable to help, so Tearfund has been working with three NGOs operating in the same area to facilitate sharing systems and to ensure that distribution is as fair and transparent as possible, with the most vulnerable beneficiaries taking priority.

Beneficiary and Village Beneficiary Committee (VBC) selection and Beneficiary training on techniques of farming

The nutrition training that was delayed in the last quarter was completed, and agricultural training was provided to 250 people, of whom 25 were leaders of farming associations (some are also VBC members) and 225 were farmers before the crisis. Tearfund has supported these beneficiaries to form agricultural associations, which will provide peer support and facilitate further distributions and training. One association has already offered to provide training and support for vulnerable community members, and we anticipate that others will follow.

This quarter beneficiaries have harvested cucumbers, eggplant, tomatoes, spinach and amaranth, so training has included food preparation, storage, seed saving and non-chemical pest management. Before this project, target communities avoided eating the red-coloured varietal of amaranth, believing it to be poisonous. Through the training sessions, they have learned that it is not only non-poisonous, but an excellent source of fibre, iron and vitamin C, and it has now become fully integrated into household diets.

Crop and vegetable seeds and tools distribution

As mentioned above, this quarter has seen successful harvests for recipients of seeds and tools.. 2,655 households received seeds (ground nuts, rice and corn) and hoes, and participated in training.

An unexpected success has been the aptitude of Muslim households: before the crisis, vegetable gardening was not a significant part of the communities' livelihoods, but they have been particularly active participants in training, and their crops are performing better than beneficiaries who relied on farming before the conflict. Tearfund's MEAL team will seek to understand this success fully, and will report on learning at the end of the project.

Animal husbandry training

375 people participated in training on keeping and breeding chickens this quarter, with topics including:

- Prevention of injuries and diseases
- Provision of food and water (including protecting human water points from contamination)
- Provision of shelter

Livestock distribution

The team encountered an issue with the poultry supplier, who was not able to supply enough chicks of the correct age (they offered week-old chicks, which would not have survived the journey to Bangui). This is partly due to an outbreak of avian influenza in Cameroon, affecting the supply in CAR. Other suppliers in Bangui and Lobaye are unable to provide the required number, and sourcing from numerous small-scale

local suppliers would compromise our ability to verify the animals' provenance, health and vaccination history. As a result, the distribution of chicks has been delayed, and began in July.

Proposed alteration to activities

In order to provide chickens to all the targeted beneficiaries, we propose reducing the number of chicks per household from four to two. 50 households have already received four chicks each (in Q3 and Q4). If the remaining 450 households now receive two chicks (or a combination of chicks and ducks, depending on quantities available), that will be a total of 1,110 animals distributed to 500 households. Beneficiaries will still be able to breed chickens and sell eggs, although the rate of increasing stocks will clearly be somewhat slower. Distributions of two chicks will not be in the same locations as the households that have already received four chicks each, thus avoiding potential tension.

Case study: Youssou



Before the crisis, Youssou kept and farmed chickens, which he sold in the local market in Boda. During the conflict, he and his household fled to the bush, and lived there for eight months, surviving on leaves.

When the conflict ended, Youssou and his family could not return to their homes, because they are Muslims, and would not be safe there. They are now living in Boda's small Muslim enclave, crowded into a very small, broken-down house, but at least they feel relatively safe.

With the seeds, tools and training provided through this project, Youssou and his family have been growing food on the land opposite their home. So far, they have harvested cucumbers, amaranth, aubergine and cassava, and they are also growing tomatoes and ground nuts. The family have grown enough not just to eat, but also to provide a small surplus to sell in the market. With this income, Youssou and his brother have started to rebuild the chicken business, and he is renting out his large chicken coops temporarily to Tearfund, so that we can keep chickens there for distribution. We are delighted to report this success story, and hope to report further success for Youssou and his family in the next quarter.

Summary of project activities planned and executed April 1st to June 30th 2016

Activity	Progress/Achievement
Sub sector 1: Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security	
Crop and vegetable seeds and tools distribution (2,000HH)	In total, 2,583 vulnerable households have received vegetable seeds and one hoe during this quarter: 400 of these were new beneficiaries since April 2016.
Training of VBC and Rural Farmer associations (250) on nutritional diversity and techniques of farming	250 VBC and Rural Farmer Association members received training.
Training on cross-cutting issues (500 HH)	This work began in early July.
Training VBCs on Humanitarian Accountability principle	77 VBCs were trained in 25 villages.
Sub sector 2: Livestock	
Livestock distribution to 500 HH	41 households received chickens, and the remaining distribution is underway.

Impact Indicator Progress

Indicator		Baseline	Target	Progress to March 2016	Progress Apr-Jun 2016	Cumulative progress to date
Sub-Sector 1: Improving Agricultural Production and Food Security						
Indicator 1	Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary households.	3.4	4	This indicator will be measured at the end of the project. NB We are anticipating an increase of 0.6 months, to a target of four months.		
Indicator 2	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex.	0	11,250	12,708	2,000 (new)	14,708
			M: 5,602	M: 5,846	M: 960	M: 6,806
			F: 5,648	F: 6,862	F: 1,040	F: 7,902
Indicator 3	Percentage of vegetable seed beneficiary households cultivating vegetable gardens by the end of the project period	0	1,600	This indicator will be measured at the end of the project		
Indicator 4	% of the target population who achieve Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)	36%	65%	This indicator will be measured at the end of the project		
Sub-Sector 2 : Livestock						
Indicator 1	Number of individuals benefiting from livestock distribution, by sex.	0	2,500	0	246	246
			M: 1,245	M: 0	M: 118	M: 118
			F: 1,255	F: 0	F: 128	F: 128
Indicator 2	Number of animals benefiting from these activities.	0	2,000	0	164	164

SECTOR 2: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Objective 2: To restore access to potable water supply and sanitation facilities among conflict affected communities

Construction of latrines and bathing facilities in two IDP camps



Blocks of latrines, and bathing blocks (pictured, left), have been completed in Camp Kpetene, Camp St Michel (latrines only) and Camp Fonctionnaire.

Bathing facilities were identified by camp inhabitants as a need that had been overlooked until now, particularly for women. These bathing blocks now serve 156 households.

Establishment of WASH Committees (30): 29 new WASH committees were established in the last quarter, taking the total of active committees to 69. As per last quarter, in locations where there were no water user committees, Tearfund worked with community leaders to identify respected community members to serve on the voluntary committee. The committees include a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer and two pump caretakers.

Hygiene Promotion: In the last quarter, the team has continued to support the 60 volunteer promoters (37 male, 23 female) recruited and trained last quarter. Activities have also included hygiene promotion and training in 34 villages, 2 IDP camps and 3 schools, covering four topics:

- Handwashing with soap / ash
- Construction, maintenance and use of household latrines
- Collecting, handling, storing and using safe water
- Management of household waste

The team use a combination of participatory exercises, small group training, demonstrations and drama (the latter is proving extremely effective).

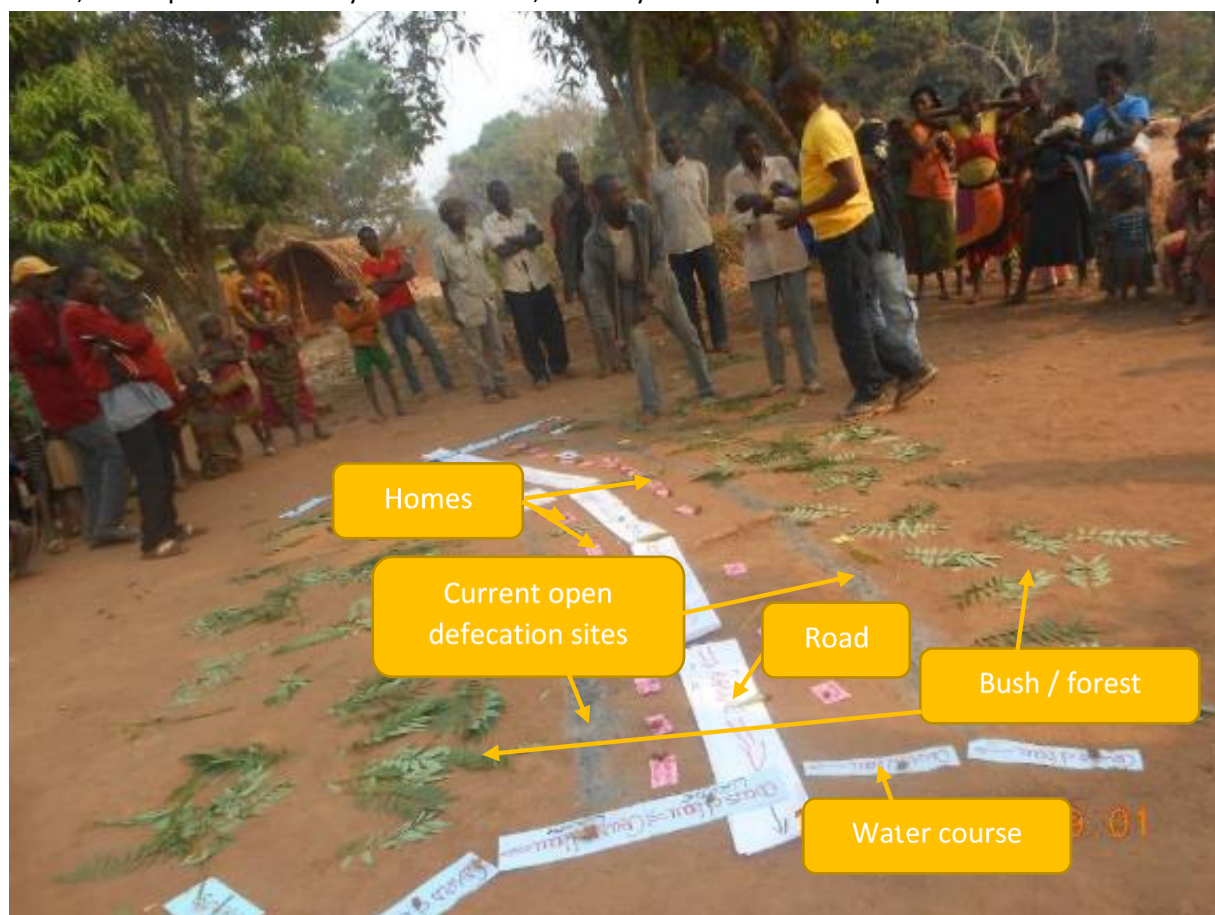
The numbers below show the total number of participants in each training theme, per month – males over 18, females over 18 and children aged 17 and under. At the end of June, an IT problem meant that the figures for household waste training for the month were lost. These are now being re-inputted, and will be reported separately in the next quarterly report.

	Handwashing				Latrines				Water				Household waste			
	M	F	Ch	Total	M	F	Ch	Total	M	F	Ch	Total	M	F	Ch	Total
April	969	1,070	955	2,994	390	403	427	1,220	201	208	220	629	236	244	258	738
May	1,251	1,234	1,203	3,688	468	482	512	1,462	406	419	445	1,270	289	298	316	902
June	508	461	744	1,713	1,443	793	417	2,653	150	161	106	417				
Total	2,728	2,765	2,902	8,395	2,301	1,678	1,356	5,335	757	788	771	2,316	525	542	574	1,640

Village mapping

The photo below shows a village mapping activity, led by Tearfund's WASH team to enable the community to decide where to locate their latrines.

A map of the village is created on the ground, with white paper representing the road, blue paper to show water courses and springs (bottom left-hand corner), pink squares of paper to show houses, darker dirt to show current open defecation sites, and leaves to represent bush. At the moment this photograph was taken, water points had not yet been added, but they are between the open defecation sites and the road.



The community is asked to consider what happens in the rainy season, when water flows out of the bush and through the open defecation sites – this opens discussions around contamination of living spaces, food preparation areas and water sources, and the implications of this for the health of their families.

As a result, participants are able to describe the risks of open defecation, and to promote the use of latrines – they are much more motivated to dig and maintain latrines for their own household. This activity is proving to be an extremely effective way of communicating the importance of latrines, and will be replicated in the final quarter of the project.

Hygiene and Sanitation Media

During and immediately after the crisis, a high proportion of people listened to local radio, to stay up to date with events and to hear about aid distribution. Now the situation is calmer, fewer people listen to the radio, and many have sold their radios to buy food. Consequently, radio broadcasts have become a much less effective means of communication with target communities, in the past six months.

Having carried out further consultation in the last quarter, we concluded that it would therefore be more effective to commission a local group to create and perform short dramas, incorporating music and dance. Communities have responded extremely well to the WASH team's dramas. This group will work with Tearfund's WASH team to script short sketches, and to create songs and dances. They will give 20 performances during awareness-raising and training sessions in villages, schools, IDP camps and in the market place in Boda, to reach the widest possible audience. This will have no impact on the proposed budget.

Rehabilitation of 16 boreholes and 12 shallow wells, and protection of 9 springs



Additional **boreholes** have been completed this quarter, bringing the total to 16. These are in 15 villages and one school, enabling a total of 7,978 people (2,327 men, 2,322 women and 3,329 children) to access clean, safe water.

Detailed technical assessments showed that in six locations, borehole rehabilitation would be more effective than shallow well rehabilitation. Due to issues with contractors, this is also the more pragmatic option (see below). Hence 16 boreholes, 12 shallow wells and nine protected springs will deliver

the clean water targets rather than the originally planned 10 boreholes, 20 shallow wells and ten springs. Although this would reduce the overall number of water points rehabilitated from 40 to 37, we will reach the same number of beneficiaries as originally proposed. Efficiencies on the borehole budget line has meant that the construction budget has come in at budget.

The photos above show the construction of a rehabilitated pump, carried out between April and May. In addition to the boreholes, nine **springs** were protected in the last quarter, and the numbers of people accessing them will also be reported next quarter. The cost of this work has increased since the proposal was submitted, so we propose reducing the target number from ten to nine.

The rehabilitation of shallow wells has been challenging, with only three being partially completed during this quarter. Similarly to the springs, this work is more expensive than initially planned. It has also become clear that the chosen contractor cannot fulfil this contract in the agreed time, despite a thorough tendering and procurement process. Following discussions with other NGOs in Lobaye, it is apparent that others are coming to the same conclusion: capacity in CAR is simply too low, and access to finance for contractors is too limited, to allocate a large contract to just one company. Therefore, to ensure that the work is completed to a high standard and within the agreed timeframe, we have invited the companies shortlisted at tender stage to submit additional bids, each for a smaller proportion of the work. At the time of writing, bids are being assessed, and work will take place in August and September.

Summary of project activities planned and executed April 1st to June 30th 2016

Activity	Progress/Achievement
Sub sector 1: Sanitation Infrastructure	
Latrine construction in IDP camps (2)	5 blocks of four latrines have been constructed, in three camps.
Bathing facility construction in IDP camps (2)	3 blocks of four bathing cubicles have been constructed, in two camps.
Sub sector 2: Hygiene Promotion	
Establishment and support of WASH Committees	29 new WASH Committees were established and trained this quarter, each with nine members.
Hygiene Promotion Training (60 promoters in 30 communities)	Hygiene Promoters were supported to deliver training for a total of over 8,000 people, in communities, IDP camps and schools.
Water Safety plans and Water Quality Monitoring	At the time of writing, we are awaiting water quality test results, and Committees are finalising their Water Safety Plans.
Hygiene and Sanitation Media	We propose to use the budget for radio broadcasts to commission a local organisation to produce and perform short dramas.
Maintenance of Latrines	Cleaning materials are distributed on a weekly basis and distribution will continue throughout the project. Spot checks have been conducted in the past quarter, to ensure that latrines are being well maintained.
Sub sector 3: Water Supply Infrastructure	
Rehabilitation of Boreholes (16)	10 completed this quarter, giving a total of 16.
Protection of Shallow Wells (12)	3 partially completed this quarter.
Protection of Springs (9)	9 completed this quarter.
Training of pump mechanics (10)	Identification and training of all ten pump mechanics is complete.

Impact Indicator Progress

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress to Mar 16	Progress Apr-Jun	Cumulative progress to date
Sub-Sector 1 : Sanitation Infrastructure						
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefiting from the sanitation infrastructure program	0	22,201	14,994	5,490	20,484
Indicator 2	S1: Number of households with no evidence of faeces in the living area	2,658	4,408	2,501	tbc*	tbc*
Indicator 3	S4: Number of clean HH latrines completed.	0	1,400	1,098	306	1,404
Indicator 4	S5: Number of people per usable latrine	0	5	16	9	9
Indicator 5	S6: Number of hand washing facilities in use	427	4,408	20	tbc*	tbc*
Sub-Sector 2 : Hygiene Promotion						
Indicator 1	Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	0	28,000	10,712	8,395+*	19,107+*
Indicator 2	HP1: Number of respondents who know 3 of 5 critical moments to wash hands	5,282	21,000	7,141	8,395	19,107
		M: 2,630	M: 10,458	M: 3,285	M: 4,237	M: 7,522
		F: 2,652	F: 10,542	F: 3,856	F: 4,158	F: 8,014
Indicator 3	HP2: Number of HH with soap and water (or ash) at a hand-washing location	tbc*	1,400	20	tbc*	tbc*
Indicator 4	HP3: Number of households who store their drinking water safely in clean containers (Safe Water Handling)	541	4,200	541	tbc*	tbc*
Indicator 5	HP4: Number of HH drinking water supplies with 0 fecal coliforms per 100 mL sample	0	4,900	Awaiting test results		
Indicator 6	HP7: Number of village water user committees active at least 3 months after training	0	28	0	40	40
Indicator 7	HP8: Number of water points that are clean and protected from contamination	0	40	4	37	41
Sub-Sector 3 : Water Supply Infrastructure						
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefiting from the water supply programme	0	21,000	2,280		
Indicator 2	WS1: Average litres/person/day collected from all sources for drinking, cooking and hygiene	13.5	15.0	15.0	15.0	

Indicator 3	WS2: Estimated water supplied per beneficiary in litres per person per day	tbc*	15	13.3	tbc*	tbc*
Indicator 4	WS3: Number of test results with 0 faecal coliforms per 100 mL sample	0	270	Awaiting results of water test		
Indicator 5	WS5: Number of HH collecting water for drinking, cooking and hygiene from improved water sources	0	4,200	380	tbc*	tbc*
Indicator 6	WS6: Number of water points which are actively utilizing their Water Safety Plan	0	28	4	tbc*	tbc*

*As described above, an IT problem has resulted in a loss of electronic data. This is currently being retrieved, and all figures will be reported on in Q4.

Challenges, constraints and unexpected successes

Security

Security during this quarter has been relatively stable, with no trouble during distributions and all sites being accessible. Tearfund continues to meet weekly with MINUSCA, the sous-prefecture representatives and other NGOs, to discuss any events that may require additional security measures or a change in plans. At these meetings, Tearfund and other NGOs provide programme plans for the coming week, and MINUSCA schedules patrols to the proposed programme sites, to give extra security cover.

In April 2016, Tearfund invited local Muslim and Christian leaders to an informal meeting, to share information and to encourage feedback. This has had positive results for relationships with target communities, and these leaders are now key stakeholders in terms of managing communities' expectations and explaining the purpose and working of Tearfund's programmes, complementing the role of the VBCs. This means that, for example, communities are now much clearer on selection criteria for distributions, thus avoiding any potential grievance on the part of those not selected.

Logistical Constraints

In our last report, we described logistical constraints affecting the registration and use of motorbikes. We are now happy to report that this has been resolved, and the motorbikes are proving invaluable in reaching communities where 4x4 vehicles are unable to travel.

The markets in Lobaye are still unsteady, with very few large-scale suppliers. Options for procurement are severely limited, and quality of both goods and services remains low. Tearfund has therefore had to source the vast majority of goods for distribution, and contracts for services, from Bangui – even these suppliers can be unreliable. Therefore, the internal procurement process has been reviewed in this quarter, to ensure that requests / calls for tender are issues far earlier in the process, in order to avoid delays.

Human Resources

A new WASH project manager joined the team in June 2016. This international staff member has extensive experience in all aspects of WASH in emergency contexts, and replaces the interim manager. In addition to this, we were delighted to recruit a female to Tearfund's WASH team in Boda during this quarter. It remains challenging to find suitably qualified staff in the local area, and finding a female to lead training for hygiene promoters, and community members, on feminine hygiene has been a priority.

Due to the challenges in finding suitably qualified staff, we have sought and received the support of local government (Direction Régionale d'Agriculture for Food Security, and Chef de Secteur for WASH) to augment the team, without additional cost to the project. This has been successful not only in ensuring that work is carried out on time and to a high standard, but also in understanding the needs of local government departments, and beginning to build the capacity of their teams.